

BIBLE COURSE SYLLABUS,

VOL. I.



JUNIOR COURSE



BIBLE COURSE SYLLABUS.

PREPARED BY

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COMPLETE IN THREE VOLUMES.

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AND PRIVATE BIBLE CLASSES.

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THE AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

THE "Bible Course Proper" in the Southwestern Presbyterian University embraces three years, the Junior, the Intermediate, and the Senior classes. The study of the English Scriptures is made a necessary part of every student's education, and graduation in this course is necessary to a degree in the institution. This small volume is primarily for the use of the lowest class, and is prepared with reference to their state of advancement. It covers the first books of the Bible up to the close of Samuel's administration. It is but a brief table of contents of the Scripture, constructed in such a way as to assist the pupil's attention to the Scripture text, and to aid him in the largest familiarity with the inspired word. The only books used by the class are a Reference Bible, a Bible Dictionary, and a Biblical Geography and Atlas. Time spent on books about the Bible at this stage only take away so much of the student's time from the text of Scripture. The Professor, at the recitation hour, asks such questions and makes such comments as may

best enlist the full interest and sympathy of the pupil in the Scriptures, and thus enable him to imbibe their spirit.

The discussion of many important and difficult questions is postponed to a later stage of the course, partly because their consideration requires a previous mastery of the entire Scriptures in detail, and partly because pupils of the Junior grade have not had sufficient mental training to grapple successfully with such questions.

It will be readily seen that this is not a course of theology, but only such a course of Scripture study as every educated man ought to have, while for the theological student it is invaluable as preliminary to a course of theology proper.

In teaching this course, the author makes it the unifying course for all sound learning. He teaches his classes that there is nothing valuable in the domain of human thought and action, whether civil, political, social, legal, moral, religious, ecclesiastical, philosophical, or scientific, etc., for which we do not find a warrant in the Scriptures, or at least a concrete illustration; and, further, that there is no heresy in any of these departments which is not refuted directly or by implication by the infallible word of God. Besides, questions of theological doctrine are by no means passed over whenever they

arise, though the exhaustive discussion of them is left to others. Studied thus, the Scriptures become the final appeal and the test of all truth.

The author hopes to give to his classes and to the public in printed form the Intermediate and Senior courses also. He also hopes that his work will prove useful to teachers in other institutions where Bible studies are taking a higher place than formerly.

Pastors and teachers will also find this Syllabus valuable in a systematic effort to drill private classes in a thorough knowledge of God's word. The author is the more bold to commend his work for this purpose, because of his own success in teaching the Scriptures on this plan for fourteen years past. He would also express his gratitude to God for having been permitted to work so long in this direction.

This first installment is offered with the humble hope and earnest prayer that it may be useful to others also.

J. B. SHEARER.

CLARKSVILLE, TENN., *January 1, 1885.*

Emphasize the mastery of the English text of the Scripture, and in many cases the very words and forms of statement. The free and faithful use of Dictionary and Geography by the pupil will save you much time for other matters.

Your endowments and facilities may be meagre, but a true heart, a single eye and earnest prayer will enable you to reach results un hoped for in the beginning.

TEXT-BOOKS AND REFERENCES.

THE English Bible, King James's version, is almost the sole text-book of the course. A reference Bible of good print is preferred.

Coleman's Historical Text-Book of Biblical Geography is also necessary for every student, and is used during the entire three years' course. The references to it in the Syllabus and to its excellent maps are numerous and ample.

It is also necessary for the student to have an approved Bible dictionary for constant use and reference. A concordance also is of great value to those who aim at thorough work.

No commentaries nor helps of this kind are specially recommended, because a perfect mastery of the text of the Scripture is the leading aim of the course.

Many students use the "Teacher's Bible" to advantage because it combines so many helps in one volume.

The customary abbreviations are used in citing references, and will be readily understood after a

little practice and experience. Where the name of a book stands at the head of the Syllabus, the references are to be found in that book unless otherwise designated.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND THOUSAND.

IN issuing the second thousand, the author desires to express his gratitude to God for the progress of the idea at which he has been working for twenty years, the necessity of making the Scriptures a part of a liberal education, and indeed of all education. A great many schools and colleges throughout this country and in foreign lands are earnestly considering this matter, and many are establishing chairs and courses and making tentative efforts in this direction.

This course of printed lessons is already in use in schools, colleges, and theological seminaries of seven different denominations in this country and in the foreign missionary field, and many other schools, male and female, are considering the question of its introduction. It is also in use in a number of private Bible-classes. Its success in Davidson College, North Carolina, where the author occupies the chair of Biblical Instruction, is marked and gratifying to all concerned.

J. B. SHEARER.

DAVIDSON COLLEGE, N. C., *July 1, 1890.*

BIBLE COURSE SYLLABUS.

Junior Course.

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COLEMAN.

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SYLLABUS LXI.

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